



## MINUTES

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 12, 2020

**9:30 a.m.**

Charlotte County Administration Center  
18500 Murdock Circle, Room 119  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

**Chair Ireland** called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon the roll being called it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Chairman's Comments

A. REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE: PLEASE SIGN IN. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes. A clipboard and a pen are provided on the podium for your convenience.

B. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS STATE THEIR NAME AND ORGANIZATION and TO USE THE MICROPHONE WHEN ADDRESSING THE COMMITTEE. It is helpful when preparing the Minutes

C. REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS TO PLEASE SILENCE THEIR CELL PHONES.

4. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

5. Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None offered.

6. Regular Business

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Pre-Agenda Meeting from March 5, 2020  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting from February 13, 2020.  
Additions, Corrections or Deletions, none offered; Approved as submitted, by acclamation.

C. FY21 MAC Grant Application Review – Jim Darden

**1. Charlotte County Sheriff – Boat Motors, LE Marine Equipment, Holiday OT**

**Chair Ireland** asked that the Charlotte County Sheriff's request be heard first.

**Mr. Blago** asked if we are buying the motors for the Sheriff's Department; with **Mr. Darden** explaining the purchase and rotation of motors as approved a couple of years ago.

**Mr. Scott** asked about the helicopter and Maritime Rescue training equipment and if this would include a hoist or a float; Lieutenant Chris Williams introduced Chief Pilot Englehoff who explained the rescue technique would be a short haul long line rescue.

**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Sheriff – Boat Motors, LE Marine Equipment, Holiday OT Grant application in the amount of \$145,371.00 second by **Mr. Savino**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**Mr. Darden** explained that the grant application had been written for \$145,371.00 with additional \$3000 + matching, so the application is for \$148,974.46. All equipment has been moved to BIF Local instead of WCIND.

A second motion was made to accept the correction.

**Mr. Bigness** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Sheriff – Boat Motors, LE Marine Equipment, Holiday OT Grant application in the amount of **\$148,974.46**, second by **Mr. Welsh**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**2. Punta Gorda Police Department – Derelict Vessel Removal – Law Enforcement Activities**

**Ms. Bareither** asked why Punta Gorda needs its own fund and what they would be doing differently than what the County does for Punta Gorda now?

**Lieutenant Devault** explained that they are requesting funds to be self sufficient within the City. We have partnerships with FWC who assist us with derelict vessels. We average 3-4 a year. We want to be able to investigate, take action and initiate the removal of that vessel in a timely manner rather than wait for the FWC. We expect it to go faster as we can work on our timeline. We have incorporated a policy for our derelict vessel program and are utilizing code enforcement. A lot of our policies are mirroring FWC.

**Ms. Powell** added that the County has a Boater Improvement Fund for abandoned vessels for similar reasons.

**Mr. Strube** asked how this will help their operation and why are we duplicating this?

**Mr. DeBruler** explained this is not a duplication of work. It is giving Punta Gorda two avenues of funding. Local funding and State funds if they have their own program in place. Without the Program being the way it is and following the FWC guidelines he would not be able to apply for FWC funding as well. We each have three layers of funding.

**Commissioner Constance** asked if this is jurisdictional; with Lieutenant Devault explaining they have their own canal ways and areas in the harbor with derelict vessels.

**Mr. Strube** made a motion to recommend approval of the Punta Gorda Police Department – Derelict Vessel Removal – Law Enforcement Activities Grant application in the amount of \$43, 000.00, second by **Mr. Mayes**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

3. **Civil Air Patrol – Sundown Flights**

**Mr. Darden** stated the Civil Air Patrol is requesting a grant for Sundown Flights in the amount of \$20,500 to offset costs of operating aircraft on four harbor patrols each week. The flights provide search boats in distress and facility SAR Missions. This is a boater safety project.

**Ms. Bareither** made a motion to recommend approval of the Civil Air Patrol – Sundown Flights Grant application in the amount of \$20, 500.00 to the Board of County Commissions, second by **Mr. Piper**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

4. **Charlotte County Parks – Blueways Trail Navigation Markers**

**Mr. Darden** stated the Charlotte County proposes \$20,000 for Blueways Trails Navigation Markers. The grant will help connect Charlotte County Blueways Trails to the Sarasota County Paddling Trail and Lee County Calusa Blueway Trail increasing safety for boaters and facilitating emergency response.

**Mr. Blago** questioned the amount of money that has been provided by previous grant applications for Blueways Trails asking what kind of signs are being placed; with Mr. DeBruler stating they are marking the trails that were set up by Tina Powell and boater groups. Some areas are obscure. State requirements are specific and were explained. The grant request is for labor costs. The next phase is in Lemon Bay. We try to piggyback on State and Federal signage.

**Mr. Falesch** asked about the unused \$14,000 from last year’s grant; with Mr. DeBruler explaining this would be used before September.

**Mr. Scott** spoke in favor of the Blueways. As an avid paddler and Auxiliarist, paddle craft safety is an issue. We have had more fatalities from paddle craft than from power boats lately.

**Mr. Strube** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Parks – Blueways Trail Navigation Markers Grant application in the amount of \$20, 000.00 to the Board of County Commissions, second by **Mr. Welsh**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

5. **Charlotte County Public Works – Sunrise Channel Dredge**

**Mr. Darden** stated Charlotte County Public Works has applied for \$40,000 to dredge Sunrise Channel. The maintenance dredge is sediment from the public access channel to the Sunrise Waterway and Port Charlotte Beach Park boat ramp.

**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Public Works – Sunrise Channel Dredge Grant application in the amount of \$40, 000.00 to the Board of County Commissions, second by **Mr. Strube**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

6. **Charlotte County Parks – Launch Facility Repair**



**Mr. Darden** stated that Charlotte County Parks has applied for \$69,000 for a launch facility repairs and will Provide funding for design, permitting and construction repairs to Hathaway Park floating dock and gangway, South Gulf Cove Boarding Pier and a Thornton Key Preserve Dock.

**Mr. Blago** asked about South Gulf Cove; with Ms. Powell stating they will be repairing in place the launch loading piers on both sides of the boat ramp. A full assessment of all the County piers and boat ramps was done by Coastal Engineering. We are trying to preventatively repair and have created internal standards for future projects.

**Chair Ireland** asked Ms. Powell to bring the South Gulf Cove assessment to a future meeting.

**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Parks – Launch Facility Repair Grant application in the amount of \$69, 000.00 to the Board of County Commissions, second by **Mr. Wilson**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

7. **Charlotte County Public Works – New Marine Markers**

**Mr. Darden** stated that Charlotte County Public Works is asking for \$42,000 for new marine markers to assist in establishing new navigation aids in Charlotte County maintained waterways to include day boards, pilings. Solar marine lights and buoys.

**Ms. Bareither** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Public Works – New Marine Markers Grant application in the amount of \$42, 000.00, second by **Mr. Mayes**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

8. **Charlotte Harbor Comm Sailing Center - Accessible Sailing Equipment**

**Mr. Darden** stated the Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center is requesting \$6,336.00 for an accessible sailing device, sip and puff accessory for the accessible sailing vessel purchased from this year's grant.

**Mr. Scott** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center - Accessible Sailing Equipment Grant application in the amount of \$6,336.00, second by **Mr. Strube**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

9. **Peace River Sail & Power Squadron – Boater Safety Materials**

**Mr. Darden** stated that the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron is requesting \$4,000 for Boater Safety Materials. The grant would be used to purchase teaching equipment and materials for boater education. Mr. Welsh asked why the money was not used last year; with **Ms. Campanella** explaining the new education officer did not need the equipment requested by the former officer.

**Mr. Darden** stated there was a request to roll the balance into this year.

**Mr. Welsh** made a motion to recommend approval of the Peace River Sail & Power Squadron – Boater Safety Materials Grant application for *a total of \$4,000.00 with last years and this year's funds*, second by **Mr. Strube**; the motion was passed by a vote of 18 Aye and 1 Recused, Ms. Campanella recused herself from the vote.



10. **Charlotte County Public Works – Marine Debris Removal**

**Mr. Darden** stated that Charlotte County Public Works has requested \$15,000 for Marine Debris Removal. This grant will assist with the removal of trees, docks and other material floating or submerged that impede boater access and County waters.

**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Public Works – Marine Debris Removal Grant application in the amount of \$15,000.00, second by **Mr. Mayes**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

11. **Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center – 4th Grade Environmental Education**

**Mr. Darden** stated that the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center is requesting \$40,000 for their 4th Grade Environmental Education Program which is designed to give students a better understanding of the water system in Florida and an introduction to safety and courteous boating. Estimated to teach 1400 fourth graders and 60 teachers.

**Ms. Bareither** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center – 4th Grade Environmental Education Grant application in the amount of \$40,000.00, second by **Ms. Campanella**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

12. **US Coast Guard Auxiliary 87 – Boater Safety Materials**

**Mr. Darden** stated that US Coast Guard Auxiliary 87 is requesting \$4, 246.00 for Boater Safety Materials. The grant would be used to purchase teaching equipment and materials for boater education.

**Mr. Blago** made a motion to recommend approval of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary 87 – Boater Safety Materials Grant application in the amount of \$4,246.00, second by **Mr. Scott**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**Commissioner Constance** asked where the unused funds go; with Mr. Darden explaining the unused funds back to the Local BIF.

13. **US Coast Guard Auxiliary 98 – Boat Trailer**

**Mr. Darden** stated US Coast Guard Auxiliary 98 is requesting \$5, 679.00 for a Boat Trailer for the U.S. Coast Guard Ready Boat.

**Mr. Scott** recused himself explaining the trailer will give them an opportunity to get their Ready Boat out in the harbor with a quicker response time. We are doing multiple missions a month now. With the boat stored in the canal system it takes us a long time to get where we need to go. The trailer will give us quicker response time.

Discussion ensued as to electric assist at \$150.00.

**Mr. Welsh** made a motion to recommend approval of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary 98 – Boat Trailer Grant application in the amount of \$5,679.00, second by **Mr. Strube**; the motion was passed by a vote of 18 Aye and 1 Recused; with Mr. Scott recusing himself.

14. **Charlotte Harbor Reef Association – Be the Fish**

**Mr. Darden** stated Charlotte Harbor Reef Association is requesting \$6,785.00 for the Be the Fish Program. The grant would assist with the eight-week class for teaching and outfitting the children for fishing and protecting the environment of Charlotte Harbor.

**Mr. Blago** stated this is the former Don Ball School of Fishing and is year-round now with children's tournaments and summer camps taking kids fishing. The eight-week class is in the Junior High School providing fundamental instruction in fishing law and environmental work. Participants get a rod, reel and a tackle box. The tournament is run through the internet with environmental and fishing questions required to register a fish and make someone eligible for the John Boat given away at the end of the year. Educational equipment, pizza party and printing expenses will all be covered.

**Mr. Bigness** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte Harbor Reef Association – Be the Fish Grant application in the amount of \$6,785.00, second by **Ms. Campanella**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

15. **City of Punta Gorda – Pump Out Boat**

**Mr. Darden** stated the City of Punta Gorda is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5000.00 for a pump out boat to augment the environmental protection grant they received to conduct pump out activity with Charlotte Harbor and Laishley Park Marina. The grant would also pay for vessel maintenance and fuel.

**Mr. Falesch** asked why this was not included and maintained under their general expenses.

**Mr. Welsh** explained this goes down to Alligator Creek and Burnt Store Marina pumping out boats in the marina and with the majority of the pump outs being on the water.

**Mr. Strube** made a motion to recommend approval of the City of Punta Gorda – Pump Out Boat Grant application in the amount of \$5,000.00, second by **Mr. Mayes**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

16. **Learn to Sail – Docking Floats**

**Mr. Darden** stated that Learn to Sail is asking for \$17,820 for floating docks for the sailing program.

**Mr. Strube** asked if the docks would be available for others to use and how many feet of docks are you asking for?

**David Johnston, Learn to Sail** explained they are temporary docks and in total there will be 900 sq. ft. The temporary docks will be placed in the boat basin and can be moved in two days' notice. Rental may not be practical.



**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Learn to Sail – Docking Floats Grant application in the amount of \$17,820.00, second by **Mr. Piper**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

17. **US Coast Guard Auxiliary 99 – Patrol and Education Equipment**

**Mr. Darden** stated US Coast Guard Auxiliary 99 has requested \$36,935 for patrol and education equipment. The grant would equip the ready boat with needed supplies and to purchase teaching equipment and materials for boater education.

**Chair Ireland** asked what they are looking to buy; with US Coast Guard Auxiliary 99 explaining this would include night vision equipment, communications items for the trailer and antenna. The trailer is used 8-10 times a year and every other patrol for communication purposes. We are required to maintain communication with our vessels when they are on the water when under order. It serves as a bridge between patrol vessels and the Coast Guard Station at Fort Myers Beach. The vessel was used during IRMA. This trailer provides us to have an adjunct to the Coast Guards Rescue 21 system. We do not have a building to permanently locate equipment. The trailer gives us mobility. We can set up communications anywhere.

**Commissioner Constance** asked where it is stored if a storm is coming; with the representative explaining it is stored at the Gasperilla Marina. Commissioner Constance suggested contacting Justin McBride, WCIND for questions about future storage issues.

**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary 99 – Patrol and Education Equipment Grant application in the amount of \$36,935.00, second by **Mr. Mayes**; the motion was passed by a vote of 18 Aye and 1 Nay.

18. **Charlotte Harbor Youth sailing – Boat Equipment and Education Material**

**Mr. Darden** stated the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club is requesting \$6,538 for boat equipment and educational materials. The grant will be used to purchase boat covers, boat dollies and student classroom materials for boater education.

**Mr. Bigness** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte Harbor Youth sailing – Boat Equipment and Education Material Grant application in the amount of \$6,538.00, second by **Ms. Bareither**; the motion was passed by a vote of 17 Aye and 2 Recused, Mr. Killion and Mr. Strube recused themselves.

19. **Charlotte County Public Works – Stump Pass Monitoring**

**Mr. Darden** stated that Charlotte County Public Works has requested \$50,000 for Stump Pass Monitoring. The grant will assist with paying for FDEP required seagrass, sand, tortoise and shorebird monitoring associated with the Stump Pass Maintenance Dredge. Without the monitoring the County would lose its permit to have stump pass open.

**Chair Ireland** asked if the \$50,000 requested each year might be reduced at some point; with Mr. Darden explaining the monitoring costs are much more than the amount asked for and that he was unsure of the monitoring years required.



**Mr. Killion** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Public Works – Stump Pass Monitoring Grant application in the amount of \$50,000.00, second by **Mr. Strube**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

20. **Englewood Beach Waterfest – Waterfest Event Support**

**Mr. Darden** explained that the Englewood Waterfest is requesting \$44,000 for Waterfest event support to include on the water law enforcement, crane, helicopter, sea tow, advertising, docks, tents, tables and chairs for exhibitors.

**Mr. Welsh** made a motion to *deny recommendation* of the Englewood Beach Waterfest – Waterfest Event Support Grant application in the amount of \$44,000.00, second by **Ms. Campanella**; the motion to deny was passed by a vote of 12 Aye and 7 Nay.

**Mr. Bigness** asked how the sheriff is funded; a WaterFest representative stated they pay \$14,000 for the Sheriff and \$10,000 for Fire and EMS.

**Mr. Falesch** asked if there was an admission charge with a WaterFest representative stating \$25.00; children are free. We are heavy on conservation and this is a volunteer event. Over \$22 million has come back to the County in the past 5 years. \$5.8 million in 2018 and \$7.5 million in 2019. All profits are given back. We are committed to giving profits back to the community. Eight local organizations benefited from last year's \$2000 profit, Lemon Bay High School, Englewood Sailing Club, Reef Rovers, etc.

**Mr. Bigness** expressed his concern with the Police Department being under funded and the event not having enough coverage.

**Mr. Welsh** asked if they have been underfunded for police in the past; with the Waterfest representative saying no, the police were paid what was requested.

21. **Charlotte County Public Works – Maintenance to Navigate Aids**

**Mr. Darden** stated that Charlotte County Public Works is requesting \$60,000 for maintenance of the navigational aids within the County waterways. This grant would assist with maintaining the existing aids with dayboards, pilings, solar marine lights and buoys.

**Ms. Bareither** made a motion to recommend approval of the Charlotte County Public Works – Maintenance to Navigate Aids Grant application in the amount of \$60,000.00, second by **Mr. Scott**; the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

**Commissioner Constance** asked to confirm that the total funding is \$800,000 to start plus any unused balances; and total requests are down to \$265,072 approved and \$538,149 plus what is left over in closed balances. Mr. Darden confirmed totals will be what comes back and what is earned.

D. MSBU Update – Matt Logan

**Mr. Logan** provided his MSBU update report:

- Manchester Waterway – The engineer is working on finalizing the estimated cost for bid.
- Looking to initiate engineering contracts for Alligator Creek and Buena Vista.

- The final cost for Pirate Harbor channel markers is pending.
- The Manasota Key North Beach Renourishment Project began March 2, 2020 and has progressed about 2500 ft. into Charlotte County. They have pumped about 100, 000 cubic yards of sand into Charlotte County. They are working to the south now and pumping 500 – 1000 ft in a 24-hour period. They have had some mechanical problems but making good progress. They believe they will make their final for 5/1/2020.
- The renourishment entails three projects.
  1. Charlotte County side first
  2. Sarasota County up to three (3) properties north of Blind Pass
  3. South to Don Pedro and Knight Island

**Mr. Blago** asked if there are separate contracts for each county; with Mr. Logan explaining that by interlocal agreement Sarasota County will be paying their share.

#### E. Derelict Vessel Report – Roger DeBruler

**Mr. DeBruler** provided the Derelict Vessel Report stating that:

- AV 307 has sunk in Chadwick Cove and it has been retagged; the 21-day clock has begun. We should be able to pull this vessel out by 3/23/2020.
- AV 296 – Sea Ray has been removed by Gulf Cove.

**Mr. Bigness** reported that he had been notified by residents that at 165 Stanford Drive there are four (4) new sunken boats.

**Mr. DeBruler** explained that Manasota Key Realty is replacing the seawall and the vessels were moved and anchored in Chadwick Cove. They should be moved back once the sea wall is complete.

#### F. Community Services Update – Tina Powell

**Ms. Powell** provided the Community Services Update Report:

- Ainger Creek Park Redevelopment is entering the design and permitting phase before we apply for grant funding. The park is also getting a new entry sign. The sign should be completed in the next 2-3 weeks.
- Allapatchee – We are working through erosion issues from IRMA with regards to FEMA and potential improvements to help prevent future erosion.
- Hathaway Park – The kayak launch is closed for repairs and is in SWFWD permitting.
- Placida – The 2014 Sales Tax Project Boat Ramp expansion is being managed by Facilities. We are looking to schedule a public meeting for public feedback.
- The Sailing Center is a 2014 Sales Tax Project that is being managed by Facilities.
- The William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park construction started yesterday.

#### 7. New Business

**Chair Ireland** presented Secretary Scott with an appreciation award from the MAC as she will be retiring.

**Mr. Strube** explained that Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing is trying to get the youth involved and promoting a High School Sailing Team activity at Collegiate High Schools. We are trying to set up a model for funding as many kids cannot afford this type of program. A circular went out to parents. The intercollegiate team venue that is run by parents removes school liability.

8. Old Business  
None offered.

9. Other Business  
None offered.

10. Citizen Comments  
None offered.

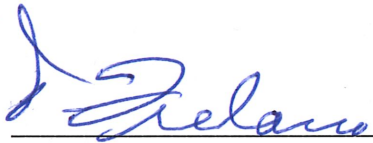
11. Good of the Order  
None offered.

12. Next Meetings

- The next **Pre-Agenda Meeting** will be held Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the **Room B-106**.
- The next **Regular Meeting** will be held Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in **Room 119**.

13. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes Approved



Tom Ireland, Chair